

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM  
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:** Legacy Pediatric Critical Care Telemedicine Service

**2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):**

Legacy Health System  
1919 NW Lovejoy  
Portland, Oregon 97209

**3. Contact information**

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Gina Cole, Government Affairs Officer
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** (503) 413-7955/
- c. **Email Address:** gcole@lhs.org
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):  
The Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center  
2801 N. Gantenbein  
Portland, OR 97227

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

Legacy Health is the largest Oregon-based not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation and comprises five full-service hospitals and a children's hospital. Within these award-winning facilities, we offer an integrated network of health care services - acute and critical care, inpatient and outpatient treatment, community health education and a variety of specialty services. The Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel is the largest provider of pediatric inpatient and trauma services in Oregon and has superior medical outcomes rivaling those found in the nation's top academic pediatric hospitals. In 2009, the Children's Hospital received nearly 100,000 patient visits involving some of the most critically injured and sick children from all over the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

Legacy Health and each of its related hospitals is a private not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific -e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

Labor, HHS / HRSA

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Oregon and southern Washington have a vital need for pediatric critical care support. The Institute of Medicine's Report on the Future of Emergency Care found that "Children make up 27% of all Emergency Department (ED) visits, but only 6% of EDs in the US have all of the necessary supplies for pediatric emergencies." A February 2006 CDC Report noted that

40% of EDs lack 24/7 access to pediatricians. And a 2009 study of the Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network found that physicians covering Emergency Departments in rural Oregon had low confidence in handling pediatric emergencies and rated it as a top priority for education and additional training.

This project will leverage the expertise of the Legacy Pediatric Critical Care Telemedicine service (LPCCT) and The Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center to improve emergency room access to pediatric specialists, improve the quality of pediatric patient care, and provide cost savings to the health system. The LPPCT will support telemedicine consultations for any critically ill children, including those with respiratory distress/failure, seizures, sepsis, trauma and cardiac issues. The LPCCT will use telemedicine equipment to provide real-time remote pediatric consultations to emergency rooms throughout Oregon and southern Washington. Over the next two years, our goal is to establish this telemedicine service in partnership with 10 community-based hospitals throughout the region. The specific objectives of this program are to:

- Provide rapid "in-person" access to pediatric specialists to improve patients' health outcomes
- Ensure patients receive medical care in the most appropriate location - reducing the financial and emotional costs of unnecessary patient transfers on families and society
- Educate medical staff members at participating hospitals to improve their ability to triage, treat, and transfer acutely ill pediatric patients.

This project will enhance the current situation in which outlying hospitals can communicate only by phone with Legacy's pediatric intensivists when caring for an acutely ill child. While some information such as medical history and health status can be conveyed by phone, telemedicine-enabled streaming video and audio provides the pediatric intensivist a more accurate assessment of the patient's condition by allowing them to remotely interact with the patient, family and medical staff. In addition, they can visualize the medical record, lab results, and radiology results as if they were in the emergency room. Each telemedicine unit is on wheels, which allows staff to easily bring it to a patient's room. This equipment consists of a high-definition camera and video, microphones, and stereo speakers that are controlled by the remote physician. Special stethoscopes and headphones allow the pediatric specialists to auscultate the respiratory and cardiovascular system remotely.

#### **8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The LPCCT will improve emergency room access to pediatric specialists, improve the quality of pediatric patient care, and provide cost savings to the health system. The value of Pediatric Critical Care Telemedicine Consults has been established by several other programs across the country. In 1999, the University of California at Davis established the first program in the nation to provide pediatric subspecialty consults to rural and medically underserved communities. They have seen strong patient and family satisfaction, strong provider satisfaction and a reduction in costs of \$5,000 per patient using telemedicine. And in 2009, a study of Pediatric Critical Care Telemedicine Consults in rural Emergency Departments in Vermont and upstate New York found that referring physicians reported that telemedicine consultations improved patient care 88% of the time.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project: \$250,000**

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Telemedicine Equipment: \$224,000

Technical Assistance/Support \$26,000

**12. What is the total cost of the project?**

\$625,000

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?**

Yes

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

Additional support being sought through community based philanthropy and grants.

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

Sky Lakes Medical Center, Klamath Falls, Oregon

McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, Springfield, Oregon

Child and Adolescent Clinic, Longview, Washington